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Monday, December 18, 2017 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

HONG CHAU HAS ALREADY WON

The 'Downsizing' star talks about her Golden Globe nomination. 16-17

The five schools you should be applying to. 20

Should you be investing in cryptocurrency? 19

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BLOCK PARTY

The Eagles blocked an extra point, field goal and punt en route to a win over the rival Giants. They now have a first-round bye in the playoffs. 21-22

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WELCOME TO METRO PHILLY

MORGAN ROUSSEAU, MANAGING EDITOR
An Eagles Super Bowl win? A smoother commute into the city? A Trump impeachment? A new year is just around the corner and we want to know: What's on your 2018 wish list for Philly and the rest of the nation? Email **Letters@metro.us** or tweet **@MetroPhilly using the hashtag #MetroWishList.**

GOP CONFIDENT TAX BILL WILL BECOME LAW

1 Top U.S. Republicans said they expected Congress to pass a tax code overhaul this week, with a Senate vote as early as Tuesday and President Donald Trump aiming to sign the bill by week's end. John Cornyn, the No. 2 U.S. Senate Republican, said in an interview on ABC's "This Week" on Sunday that he was "confident" the Senate would pass the legislation, "probably on Tuesday." Republican Representative Kevin Brady said he believed his party had the votes to pass the bill. "I think we are headed — the American people are headed — for a big win on Tuesday," Brady, the House of Representatives' top tax writer, said on Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo." "We've worked hard to make sure that those strange Senate rules don't hang this up in any way," Brady added. "I am confident that's the case."

US TIP-OFF HELPED RUSSIA HALT TERRORIST ATTACK

2 Russian President Vladimir Putin telephoned President Donald Trump to thank him for a tip-off that helped prevent a terrorist bomb attack on a cathedral in the Russia city of St Petersburg, the Kremlin said. Information provided by the CIA allowed Russian law-enforcement agencies to arrest the would-be attackers before they could carry out their plan, the Kremlin said in a statement posted on its internet site. A senior Trump administration official confirmed Trump and Putin had spoken on Sunday. However, there was no immediate confirmation from U.S. authorities that they had shared the intelligence with Russian officials. The foiled attack was to have been carried out on Kazansky Cathedral, in Russia's second city of St Petersburg, and on other locations in the city where large numbers of people gather, the Kremlin statement said.

EAGLES CELEBRATE

3 Kamu Grugier-Hill (center) of the Philadelphia Eagles celebrates with his teammates after blocking a punt from Brad Wing of the New York Giants during the second quarter of Sunday's game at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

LANDSLIDES KILL 26 IN STORM-HIT PHILIPPINES

4 At least 26 people were killed while several residents were missing in an island province in central Philippines after tropical storm Kai-tak brought heavy rains that triggered landslides, local authorities and media said on Sunday. Kai-tak cut power supplies in many areas, forced the cancellation of several flights, stranded more than 15,000 people in various ports in the region and prompted nearly 88,000 people to seek shelter in evacuation centers. The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office of Biliran island said 26 residents had died. Kai-tak cut power supplies in many areas, forced the cancellation of several flights, stranded more than 15,000 people in various ports in the region and prompted nearly 88,000 people to seek shelter in evacuation centers.

POWER OUTAGE CRIPPLES ATLANTA AIRPORT

5 Flights were delayed at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport on Sunday after a partial power outage, leaving passengers at the world's busiest airport stranded in dimly lit terminals or in aircraft idling on tarmacs. The partial shutdown at the start of one of the busiest travel weeks of the year forced the Federal Aviation Administration to hold back flights bound for Atlanta. Departures were delayed as well because equipment inside terminals was inoperative, the agency said, although the FAA flight control tower was operating normally. The cause of the outage, which occurred just after 1 p.m., was not immediately known, the airport said in a statement. It was working with Georgia Power to identify the problem and fix it. The utility had crews at the airport, spokesman John Kraft said.

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Did You Know?

Dram Shop laws hold servers of alcoholic beverages legally responsible for harm that visibly intoxicated patrons cause to others. State liquor liability laws can apply not only to bars, liquor stores and restaurants, but also to social clubs and private events where liquor is served. The laws also include selling liquor without a license, selling liquor after hours and selling liquor to minors.

If a person is served alcoholic beverages while visibly intoxicated, and then gets into an accident injuring someone while driving drunk, the owner of the serving establishment can be held responsible in addition to the drunk driver.

Dram Shop lawsuits aren't limited to auto accidents — if a bar serves a visibly intoxicated person who then starts a fistfight and seriously injures another patron, that patron could sue the bar under the dram shop law.

In order to successfully sue under the dram shop law, you must be able to prove:

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2. The business or host's decision to serve alcohol to the visibly intoxicated person directly led to the injuries.

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Owner to face new, stiffer penalty for maiming his now-three-legged pit bull

The PSPCA announced that they would charge a pit bull owner with harsher crimes under Libre's Law, recently signed by Gov. Wolf.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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A pit bull's former owner will face animal cruelty charges after maiming his dog's leg so badly it had to be amputated, the PSPCA announced on Friday.

The owner will be facing felony charges for brutalizing their own pet, thanks to Libre's Law, also known as the Animal Abuse Statute Overhaul, which stiffens penalties considerably for animal cruelty-related crimes and took effect in August.

Haze, a 4-year-old pit-bull mix, was dropped off at a city shelter with severe injuries in her left hind leg. The shelter quickly called the SPCA.

The dog's owner "tried to surrender his dog with a severe injury to its hind left leg," the shelter told the PSPCA. "The injury severed a number of bones in the leg."

The dog was transferred to the PSPCA's medical team, but it was too late to save Haze's leg, which was amputated at the hip.

The PSPCA said Haze's owner admitted to intentionally injuring the dog's leg "when the dog had allegedly acted out," the PSPCA said.

"It was clear upon arrival, and from the evidence that our team was able to gather, that the injury to Haze was inflicted intentionally and would be considered maiming under Libre's Law," PSPCA Director of Humane Law Enforcement Nicole Wilson said in a press release. "Haze has made a full recovery, albeit on three legs. Now it's our turn to file charges, which we plan to pursue as a felony."

Haze, a 4-year-old pit bull, was injured so badly in the left hind leg that the limb had to be amputated. COURTESY OF THE PSPCA

After spending the last few weeks under close observation, Haze is back to full health and eligible for adoption, the PSPCA said.

Gov. Tom Wolf signed "Libre's Law" in June, and it took effect in August. The law significantly stiffens penalties for animal cruelty.

Previously, the only crimes against animals that were graded as felonies

The law was named after Libre, a Boston terrier discovered tied up on a Lancaster County farm clinging to life on July 4, 2016.

Severely emaciated and with infected, maggot-infested wounds, the dog was just hours from death when he was rescued, but after receiving weeks of medical care, made a full recovery and was adopted. Libre became a symbol for abused animals and galvanized the legislature to pass Libre's Law, which took effect in August 2017.

The law made the following changes:

- The charge of "aggravated cruelty" can be filed against people responsible for an animal suffering serious bodily injury or death.
- Individuals convicted of animal cruelty will now face from 90 days to seven years in jail, and fines from $300 to $15,000.
- Conviction of animal cruelty leads to mandatory forfeiture of ownership of the animal.
- Owners must give tethered dogs water and shade, they cannot be tied up for more than nine hours of any 24 hours. If it's above 90 degrees they can't be tethered for more than 30 minutes, and leashes must be at least 10 feet long or three times the length of the pet, whichever is larger.

The PSPCA has also launched a donation to help cover the costs of care for Haze and other wounded animals. To donate, visit pspca.org/haze.

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"Protected bike lanes now" reads a sign held by some 100 cyclists and supporters on Nov. 29 on Spruce Street, after a cyclist was killed by a trash truck 24 hours prior. COURTESY OF THE BICYCLE COALITION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

ZERO IS ACHIEVABLE, IF YOU WANT IT

RANDY LOBASSO

Analysis

In the weeks since cyclist Emily Fredricks' death on Spruce Street in Center City, there's been a sense among Philadelphia's cycling community that not enough is being done to bring Vision Zero to Philadelphia.

Vision Zero is the idea that there are legislative changes you can make via engineering, education, and enforcement to cut all traffic deaths in an area down to zero. The city has made a commitment, and written an action plan, to do just that, by 2030.

Which is good. But even as those fighting for safer streets have stepped up their advocacy in the cold, those in charge of enforcement have continued turning a blind eye to some egregious behaviors by motorists on the streets where the tragedy occurred, and advocates have attempted to take matters into their own hands.

Philadelphians set up a human-protected bike lane the day after Emily's passing, and a vigil was held that night. Tellingly, cyclists were honked at, screamed at, and had to ride in packs around rucks illegally blocking the bike lane, just to travel a few blocks and remember one of their community members.

The Streets Department was out the next weekend with a striping crew, repainting the worn out, faded Spruce Street bike lane.

The crew was able to repaint several lanes, but not as many as they probably could have. At every block, the workers were delayed by people pulling over in front of them, parking their cars in the bike lane, and running off to do whatever errand they felt was more important than restriping the street. Meanwhile, a line of people in motor vehicles behind them, screamed and honked for the striping crew to get the hell out of the way so they could get by.

Trucks have continued using Spruce and Pine's bike lanes for parking, and someone holding a holiday party on the 2100 block of Spruce last Thursday used the bike lane as their official valet parking zone, complete with hired valets.

Another cyclist was struck by another truck on Friday, on 13th and Pine, which is another intersection that's supposed to be safe for cyclists even though it does not include physical protection.

You can't get to zero deaths if you continue to turn a blind eye to some of the most egregious traffic behaviors by those operating some of the most dangerous machines in the city. As the weeks since Emily's passing — and years before it — have shown, you can't expect motorist's behavior to change because of a tragedy. After all, for those who drive on the regular, fender-benders, head-on collisions, and broken bones are just part of what you sign up for when you pass your driving test. Only a change in infrastructure will stop the egregious behavior.

That's why tomorrow, Tuesday, Dec. 19, Philly's cycling community will, again, create a human protected bike lane along 13th Street to keep cyclists safe from motorists using lanes designated for bikes as their personal parking lots. If you're interested in participating, come out to 13th and Pine, where the latest cyclist was hit, from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

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Why Donald Trump can be charged with obstruction, according to an expert

It's right there in the Constitution, says a leading law scholar.

MICHAEL MARTIN
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When discussing the potential consequences of the Russia investigation on President Trump, political analysts often say that even if there's evidence he committed obstruction of justice, a sitting president can't be charged with a crime. Others argue that the president can't obstruct justice because he's ultimately in charge of law enforcement. Both are incorrect, a leading Constitutional scholar said today.

According to Laurence Tribe, a Constitutional law professor at Harvard, the Supreme Court ruled that the president is subject to criminal investigation — and its consequences — in two rulings: In 1974's United States v. Nixon, the Court forced then-President Nixon to turn over White House recordings as an unindicted co-conspirator in Watergate; and Morrison v. Olson, the 1988 ruling that created the office of special prosecutor, who is able to investigate and prosecute crimes committed by the executive branch.

The Supreme Court ruled that the president can be subject to criminal investigation and its consequences.
GETTY IMAGES

In Tribe's view, it's clear that Trump committed obstruction of justice in firing FBI Director James Comey after asking him to "let go" of the investigation into Mike Flynn's dealings with Russia. "A president who offers to keep the FBI director in his job if but only if the director agrees to 'go easy' on a national security director who has lied to the FBI about his dealings with a hostile foreign power is both offering a bribe and obstructing justice," wrote Tribe. "And, if he does so with the motive of covering up his campaign's conspiracy against the United States in orchestrating foreign interference with our presidential election, that president is engaged in a particularly pernicious form of obstruction."

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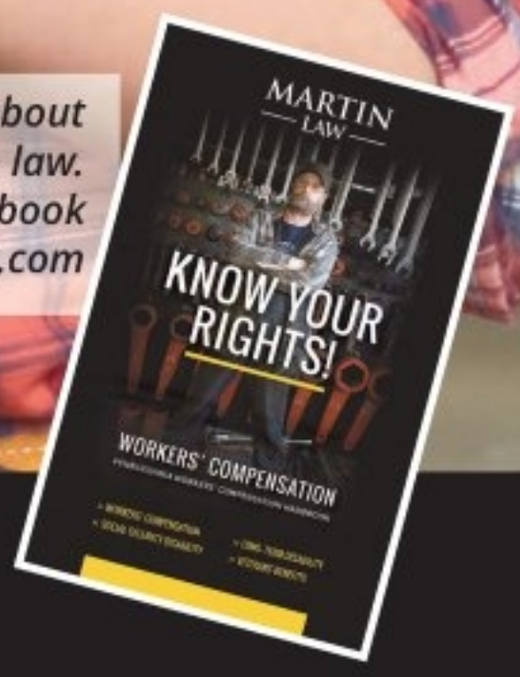

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Tailgating makes traffic worse, but MIT researchers have a solution

MIT researchers have a possible solution for stop-and-go traffic. GETTY IMAGES

If you've driven on any major road, you've probably experienced a traffic jam out of nowhere. Things are moving just along fine until you have to brake, and then you're inching forward for a while. Once you can pick up speed again, you wonder what even caused the traffic.

It turns out, tailgating is to blame, according to MIT researchers. And though tailgating seems like a part of human nature, they've also found a way they say will prevent such congestion.

MIT professor Berthold Horn and post-doc associate Liang Wang, both from the university's Computer Science and Artificial Laboratory (CSAIL), co-authored a paper that was published recently on the common commuting problem.

There's been a ton of research on traffic, Horn said, but he still focused on the issue because he was "desperate to find a solution."

First, here's why those jams are a problem in the first place.

"Each car individually, and its driver, is doing something that's personally rational: They're looking at the car ahead and adjusting their speed based on distance and velocity of that car ahead of them," Horn said.

But when there's a whole system of cars one behind the other, an issue arises. "If one car brakes for any reason, the car behind them has to brake," he said. "The car behind them has to break just a little bit harder, and the one behind that even harder, until it builds up until many many cars behind, someone may actually be stopped on the road, which is the beginning of a traffic jam."

The key to keeping a constant flow of traffic, according to Horn, is not just keeping an eye on the car ahead of you, but also monitoring how close you are to the car behind you.

If drivers kept an equal distance between the car in front and the car behind, in what Horn calls "bilateral control," random jams would disappear. In fact, traffic would go roughly double the speed.

Of course, that's easier said than done, so Horn has an external solution: adaptive cruise-control.

Some cars are already equipped with adaptive cruise-control systems, but their flaw is that they only adjust your car's speed relative to the car right ahead. Horn is proposing systems that also have a sensor at both the front and rear bumpers.

This system could be implemented in self-driving cars, but it could also be added to cars now.

The solution to most traffic is to build more roads, Horn noted, but that's expensive, whereas this could increase the capacity of those roads without the cost of new infrastructure. Lessening traffic would save people time as well as fuel, which would lead to less CO_2 released into the atmosphere. KRISTIN TOUSSAINT

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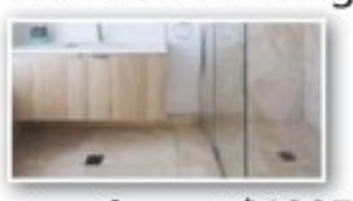
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ANALYSIS

ELLIS HENICAN
@henican

Let's get these words into print right at the top here while we still have the chance. Once the government starts banning language, there's no telling when the banning will stop.

"Vulnerable." "Entitlement." "Diversity." "Transgender." "Fetus." "Evidence-based." "Science-based."

Did you hear about this? The Trump Administration has told officials at the CDC (the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) that these seven words and phrases must NOT — repeat NOT — be mentioned in the agency's 2018 budget request.

The word-banning isn't stopping there. "Affordable Care Act" and "ACA" were banned at a second federal health agency, whose employees were told to always say "Obamacare" — presumably with a sneer. And the State Department got an even creepier directive. No more "sex education" programs abroad. Now it's "sexual risk avoidance," a tortured euphemism for the "abstinence-only" programs that have long been discredited by "evidence-based" and "science-based" studies.

Oops. Sorry about that.

There is, of course, a word for this kind of censorship and thought control, a word that, thankfully, has not been banned yet. The word is "dumb."

For one thing, it's counterproductive. Whenever people are told not to say something, it only makes them want to say it louder. Just ask any 3-year-old who knows about "poo-poo."

At the same time, all this word banning isn't just ignorant. It can cost lives. Do we really want America's public-health docs to move away from "evidence-based" and "science-based" cures? What would be better? Leeches? Faith-healing? More trips to the Trump International day spa?

None of this should come as a surprise, I suppose. Donald Trump's national security advisers have learned to avoid mentioning Russia around the president. Otherwise, the Washington Post reports, the daily intel briefings go totally "off the rails."

They should probably also avoid Mueller, Flynn, Manafort, Gates and Papadopoulos — the special counsel and the first batch of Trump aides to plead guilty or be indicted in the Russia probe.

Oh, and one other word is best avoided. I won't even write it here, but you'll be hearing more of it. It starts with an "I."

Metro columnist Ellis Henican is the best-selling author of a dozen books, including "TRUMPITUDE: The Secret Confessions of Donald's Brain." Follow him on Twitter @henican.

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Tell us what you think!

@MetroPhilly

Mueller investigation responds to accusations of unlawfulness

The allegations concern the collection of tens of thousands of emails.

An organization established for President Donald Trump's transition to the White House said over the weekend that the special counsel investigating allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 election had obtained tens of thousands of emails unlawfully, an accusation that the special counsel's office later rejected.

Kory Langhofer, counsel to the transition team known as Trump for America, Inc. (TFA), wrote a letter to congressional committees to say special counsel Robert Mueller's team had improperly received the emails from the General Services Administration (GSA), a government agency.

The special counsel's office waved off the transition team's complaint.

"When we have obtained emails in the course of our ongoing criminal investigation, we have secured either the account owner's consent or appropriate criminal process," said Peter Carr, spokesman for the special counsel's office.

According to Langhofer's letter, a copy of which was seen by Reuters, career staff members at the GSA "unlawfully produced TFA's private materials, including privileged communications, to the special counsel's office." It also said the materials included "tens of thousands of emails."

Trump's transition team used facilities of the GSA, which helps manage the U.S. government bureaucracy, in the period between the Republican's November presidential election victory and his inauguration in January. The Trump team's accusation adds to the growing friction between the president's supporters and Mueller's office as it investigates whether Russia interfered in the election and if Trump or anyone on his team colluded with Moscow.

The GSA did not respond immediately to a request for comment.

Democrats say there is a wide-ranging effort by the president's allies on Capitol Hill and in some media outlets to discredit Mueller's investigation. Trump himself has loudly declared Mueller's effort a waste of time. "There is absolutely no collusion. That has been proven," Trump told reporters on Friday.

President Trump, when asked on Sunday if he was considering firing special counsel Robert Mueller, told reporters, "No. I'm not."

Democratic lawmakers in recent days have expressed concern that Trump might fire Mueller. On Friday, Representative Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee, said he fears the committee's Republican majority intends to close its investigation of the topic prematurely.

Langhofer, the Trump transition team lawyer, wrote in his letter that the GSA's transfer of materials was discovered on Dec. 12 and 13.

The FBI had requested the materials from GSA staff on Aug. 23, asking for copies of the emails, laptops, cell phones and other materials associated with nine members of the Trump transition team, the letter said.

Langhofer argued that such transition teams are considered private, nonprofit organizations whose records are private and not subject to presidential records laws. REUTERS

Robert Mueller speaks during a news conference at the FBI headquarters on June 25, 2008. GETTY IMAGES

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8 Celebrity May/December relationships

Ah, the holiday season: A perfect time to celebrate the ones you love. Especially if you're in a relationship and your significant other is, oh, 20 to 40 years your senior. Here's a look at 8 celebrity May/December romances. Happy holidays! METRO

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Patrick Stewart & Sunny Ozell

The "Logan" star, 77, and his musician wife, 38, married in 2013. Lovely!

Woody Allen & Soon-Yi Previn

Allen, 82, married Soon-Yi, 47 — the adopted daughter of his former partner, Mia Farrow — in 1997. Creepy!

Sarah Paulson & Holland Taylor

Actresses Paulson, 42, and Taylor, 74, have been dating since 2015. Yas!

Jeff Goldblum & Emilie Livingston

The forever hot "Thor: Ragnarok" actor, 65, and his wife, Livingston, 34, married in 2014. Rad!

Alec & Hilaria Baldwin

The 59-year-old "Boss Baby" and the 33-year-old fitness and wellness expert married in 2012. Sure!

Kelsey Grammer & Kayte Walsh

The "Frasier" alum, 62, and Walsh, 37, married in 2011. OK!

Catherine Zeta-Jones & Michael Douglas

Zeta-Jones, 48, and Douglas, 73, tied the knot in 2000. Great!

Aaron & Sam Taylor-Johnson

The "Kick-Ass" star, 27, and the 50-year-old filmmaker married in 2012. Right on!

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New Arthritis Painkiller Works on Contact and Numbs the Pain in Minutes

New cream works faster and is more targeted than oral medications. Key ingredients penetrate the skin within minutes to relieve joint arthritis pain. Users report significant immediate relief.

By Robert Ward
Associated Health Press

BOSTON – Innovus Pharmaceuticals has introduced a new arthritis pain relief treatment that works in minutes.

Sold under the brand name *Apeaz™*, the new pain relief cream numbs the nerves right below the skin.

When applied to an arthritic joint, or a painful area on the body, it delivers immediate relief that lasts for hours and hours.

The powerful painkilling effect is created by the creams active ingredient, a special medical compound.

Anesthetics are used in hospitals during surgery. They block nerve signals from the brain so that patients don't feel pain and they work fast.

The anesthetic found in *Apeaz™* is the strongest available without a prescription.

The cream form allows users to directly target their area of pain. It works where it is applied. The company says this is why the product is so effective and fast acting.

"Users can expect to feel relief immediately after applying," explains Dr. Bassam Damaj, President of Innovus Pharmaceuticals.

"There will a pleasant warming sensation that is followed by a cool, soothing one. This is how you know that the active ingredients have reached the infected joint and tissue."

Works In Minutes

For arthritis suffers, Apeaz offers impressive advantages over traditional medications. The most obvious is how quickly it relieves discomfort.

The cream contains the maximum approved dose of a top anesthetic, which penetrates the skin in a matter of minutes to numb the area that's in pain. This relief lasts for several hours.

Additional ingredients in the cream help suppress inflammation around tissues and joints. Published pre-clinical studies have shown that the ingredients in *Apeaz™* can also prevent further bone and cartilage destruction.

There are also no negative side effects from the oral medication. *Apeaz™* delivers its ingredients through the skin. Oral medications are absorbed in the digestive tract. Overtime, the chemicals in pills can tear the delicate lining of the stomach, causing ulcers and bleeding.

When compared to other arthritis medications, *Apeaz™* is a fraction of the cost. At less than $2 a day, the cream quickly is becoming a household name.

Those with terrible arthritis in their hands and fingers, love how easy Apeaz™ is to open. The jar fits in the palm of the hand, which makes it much easier to use.

Instant Pain Relief Without a Prescription

Many *Apeaz™* users report significant improvements in daily aches and pain. Many more report increased flexibility and less stiffness. They are moving pain free for the first time in years, like Henry Esber, and early user of *Apeaz™*.

"I've tried more pills than I can count. I've also had a handful of cortisone shots. Nothing is as effective as this product. With Apeaz™, I get relief right away. I rub a little on my knees and some through my hands. It keeps the pain away. It also prevents the pain from getting really bad. It's completely changed my life."

How It Works

"*Apeaz™* contains the highest, non-prescription dose of a medical compound that fights pain on contact. When applied to the skin it goes to work within minutes by penetrating right to the source of your pain, numbing the nerve endings."

Apeaz™: Quick Acting Pain and Arthritis Cream is Now Available Without a Prescription

"This is why *Apeaz™* is so effective for people with arthritis. It reduces pain while adding an additional layer of joint protection," explains Damaj.

A New Way to Treat Pain

Although Dr. Damaj and his team say that their cream is the fastest and most effective way to relieve arthritis pain, they believe there is still a reason to take joint pills. **The most effective are those which help to further strengthen and support the joints.**

That's why every container of *Apeaz™* comes with ArthriVarx™, a breakthrough pill that's taking on joint support in an entirely new way.

ArthriVarx™ works on your joints, making it the perfect companion to *Apeaz™*.

"ArthriVarx™ contains special compounds published to lubricate the joints and connective tissues that surrounds them. With daily use, they improve joint health and can give an extra cushion," explains Dr. Damaj.

"When combined with *Apeaz™*, it becomes the perfect system to tackle arthritis. While the anesthetic component of *Apeaz™* is working on the outside, relieving pain on contact, ArthriVarx™ is working on the inside, adding cushioning to the joints"'

A Powerful Combination For Arthritis and Joint Pain

With daily use, *Apeaz™* plus ArthriVarx™ helps users live a more vital, pain free life without any of the negative side effects or interactions associated with oral drugs.

By delivering fast, long-lasting, and targeted relief from joint pain and reducing inflammation and swelling that causes joint damage, Apeaz™ and ArthriVarx™ is the newest, most effective way to tackle your arthritis pain.

You can now enjoy an entirely new level of comfort that's both safe and affordable. It is also extremely effective, especially if nothing else has worked well for you.

How to Get Apeaz™ in Pennsylvania

This is the official public release of *Apeaz™*. As such, the company is offering a special discounted supply to any joint-pain arthritis-sufferer who calls within the next 48 hours.

A special hotline number and discounted pricing has been created for all Pennsylvania residents. Discounts will be available starting today at 6:00AM and will automatically be applied to all callers.

Your Toll-Free hotline number is 1-800-329-9683 and will only be open for the next 48 hours. Only a limited discounted supply of *Apeaz™* is currently available in your region.

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Hong Chau has already won

In "Downsizing," Chau plays Ngoc Lan Tran, an involuntarily downsized Vietnamese activist with a missing leg — and a whole lot of grit. PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Chatting with the breakout star of "Downsizing" about her Golden Globe nomination, the immigrant experience and strong female characters.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
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With just two films under her belt, actress Hong Chau has achieved more than most other actors do in their entire careers. And her performance in "Downsizing" — in theaters Dec. 22 — has turned her into a bona-fide awards-season contender.

In fact, the 38-year-old (whose only other film credit is 2014's "Inherent Vice") has already picked up Golden Globe, Critics Choice, and Screen Actors Guild nominations for her role in the film, which explores a solution to overpopulation via shrinking

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— or downsizing. But according to Chau, the slew of nominations hasn't affected her, at all.

"I recognize that a lot more goes into that discussion than just whether a person is talented or if the material is worthy of any sort of accolade," she says over the phone. "I feel like I have won by just getting to play this amazing woman in this fantastic movie.

"Hopefully we're not preaching at anybody," Chau continued. "There's just a lot to unpack. Alexander Payne makes films that reward repeat viewings, though, so you keep on getting different perspectives and revelations each time."

Chau stars alongside Matt Damon, who plays Omaha everyman Paul Safranek. PARAMOUNT PICTURES

In "Downsizing," Chau — who was born to Vietnamese parents in a Thai refugee camp and was raised in New Orleans — plays Ngoc Lan Tran, an involuntarily downsized Vietnamese activist with a missing leg. And she immediately connected to her character's experience.

"[Ngoc Lan Tran is] the complete opposite to all of the female characters I've seen," Chau says. "She doesn't wear her femininity on her sleeve, she's direct, doesn't suffer fools, and knows exactly what she wants and goes after it."

Chau finds the portrayal of her character's immigrant experience in "Downsizing" — and the otherness inherent to that experience — to be straightforward, too.

"I really admired the intelligent observations about the immigrant experience," she says. "Both mine and Matt [Damon's] characters are labelled quickly as 'others' and then repeatedly face prejudice.

"Most Americans just don't understand what it's like to leave your country, leave everything behind, and arrive at a foreign place where you don't have a support system, and are lost," she continues. "This movie cares about the invisible, the exploited, the marginalized."

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'Turn Up the Trans*Mission' Returns to Tattooed Mom

The show promises trans performers a safe space to fully express their creative sides.

MIKE FENN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

It is no secret that, even in 2017, transgender citizens still struggle with everything from finding work to expressing themselves creatively. One show, however, is packing its lineup with a fantastic array of the area's best trans performers while offering them and audiences a safe space in which to fully showcase their craft.

"Turn Up the Trans*Mission" will holding its last show of 2017 at Tattooed Mom on South Street. Presented by PLAI (the Philadelphia LGTBQ Arts Initiative), Turn Up the Trans*Mission held its first successful show in March 2017. Co-producers and local performers Vyvyan Sassafrass and Deadb0y IX are eager to bring the show back to not only to entertain audiences, but to continue giving trans people a safe space to perform in a society that tends to be judgmental. The pair met at local producer Josh Schonewolf's "Mr. Everything" competition.

"Personally, I think there is a lot of difficulty for trans people to get bookings in a place where they will feel comfortable to express themselves and their experiences without getting gawked at or hounded with a bunch of inappropriate questions after their intimate performances," Sassafrass says. "I am very happy that trans artists have become more visible, but 'Turn Up the Trans*mission' is specifically created to allow trans and gender-nonconforming artists of any level to express themselves about anything they want and however they want, without judgement."

If you go

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530 South St.
tattooedmomphilly.com

Co-producer Deadb0y agrees.

"I feel most trans people get pigeonholed into only performing drag because that is what people expect," Deadb0y said. "I think there are rare opportunities for any trans people to gain experience or exposure in the scene in Philly."

Reflecting on past "Turn Up the Trans*Mission" shows, Sassafrass said each one is "always a wild ride through all sorts of emotions and performance types," promising that the December show will be no different. Meanwhile, Deadb0y recalls a memorable moment brought to the stage by trans performer Iguana B. Lyzard. "He performed a duet with an old recording of himself. His singing ability gave me chills, and being comfortable enough to share old voice recordings really meant a lot to me."

The December show, which happens to fall on Sassafrass' birthday, will feature a variety of performances from not only Sassafrass and Deadb0y themselves, but local performers Bakedpizza, Emilie Mary Lemieux, Hadeel, Icon Ebony Fierce, Iguana B. Lyzard (Jax Savage), Genome Kelly and Ron Binary.

"Turn up the Trans*Mission" comes to Tattooed Mom on Wednesday, Dec. 20.
KELLY BURKHART MEDIA AND VC PHOTOGRAPHY NJ

Admission is free and donations are accepted at the door, with all money collected going directly to the performers. "We do not charge an admission as we don't want to turn anyone away for lack of funds, especially considering how difficult it can be for trans and gender-nonconforming people to get jobs," Sassafrass notes.

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Should you be investing in cryptocurrency?

Maybe it's time to load up on some digital cash. ISTOCK

Can you really trust Bitcoin's recent rise in value?

PAT KING
@MetroPhilly
patrick.king@metro.us

With cryptocurrency companies like Bitcoin and Litecoin blowing up on the stock market recently, you probably reacted to the news in one of two different ways: Kicking yourself for not investing in these companies early on, or kicking yourself for not investing enough.

Many were shocked to see the stock in these companies skyrocket, with even a lesser-known companies like Litecoin reaching a 1,400 percent increase in its initial value this year alone. But with cryptocurrency (the term used for online-only digital cash companies such as Bitcoin) being such a brand new industry, how can anyone predict whether or not they will have the same value a year from now let alone the next few months?

Chicago-based data company Hedge Fund Research (HFR) recently announced it will launch a comprehensive database that will show the general public which major hedge funds are investing in cryptocurrency companies.

As Kenneth J. Heinz, president of HFR, sees it, the growth of this industry is inevitable but "while the recent performance has been exciting, trading and investing in these evolving areas requires specialized expertise and involves substantial volatility and risks, both real and structural."

As of now, financial experts are scrambling to understand the future of this new currency. In a recent roundtable discussion with five financial reporters from NerdWallet, titled "Is Bitcoin Safe?" the writers tried to determine whether investing in cryptocurrency is a safe bet.

Investing writer Andrea Coombes tried to explain the sudden turn around for Bitcoin by saying "With Bitcoin, the underlying value is in question. I mean, you can lose money on a mutual fund investment, but if you believe U.S. and international companies are likely, over the long haul, to continue to make money, you can trust that there will be a general move higher for stocks over time. With Bitcoin, it's hard to even understand what the value is. The value is in the demand itself right now."

Others were a little less optimistic. Writer James Royal sees the meteoric rise in Cryptocurrency stock as a fluke and an investment that people should avoid like the plague. "It's worthless, or near-worthless," said Royal. "Super-investors such as Warren Buffett have made similar comments. Part of the issue is that as long as Bitcoin remains this volatile, it's useless as a currency."

All of this begs the question: is the main allure of investing in cryptocurrency the uncertainty of the industry as a whole? Either way, people who had held onto their stock are most likely over the moon. It just remains to be seen if the value will come back down soon.

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The 5 schools you should be applying to

Are you covering enough ground with your college applications?

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Now that we have reached the halfway point of the school year, the time has come for many students to consider their college-application plan of action.

It's nice to think that your dream school will fling open its doors and name a wing after you once they've received your application. However, it might be a good idea to be a little realistic. So brace yourself for this bombshell: not everyone gets into their main school of choice.

We spoke with Adrian Ridner, CEO and co-founder of Study.com, about the five types of schools you should apply to and why they are important.

The dream school

"You may not be able to afford your dream school, or your scores may not qualify, but you've always pictured yourself here, so it should definitely be on your list. These schools can offer great networking opportunities and can look good on résumés and, if you do get in, you could receive a scholarship or grant to help with finances. But don't put all your eggs in one basket. Make sure your list of schools is diversified and balanced."

The safety school

"You should apply to at least one safety school because you want to have choices at the end of the college-application process. Think of it as a backup or safety net. Going to college — any college — is the most important goal here. In most cases, where you get that bachelor's degree from isn't as important in the job market. Instead, focus on refining specific skills that will be relevant to your future career."

The low-cost school

"The average student loan debt is over $28k per borrower — that's a crippling amount. In fact, research has shown that it takes an average of 21 years for a student to repay their student loans. Whether it's a community college, in-state school or somewhere you'll receive a big scholarship, you should always include the low-cost option on your list to avoid being strapped down by debt for the better part of your adult life."

The flexible school

"You just never know when life might get in the way, so be sure to apply to a school that caters to a variety of needs and allows you to balance school with other life commitments. This might mean a college that offers online courses to help you balance work and school, or a college that allows you to live off campus as a freshman so you can tend to family commitments."

The perfect fit

"This could be a hidden gem you hadn't previously thought of but is a good overall fit for you and your major. Look at the dimensions of your dream school, then find alternative schools that fit that category. For example, you may want to go to MIT for their top-notch engineering program, but you find that Cal Poly also has a solid program and is more attainable. Sometimes it just takes a change of attitude to realize that a school can be your perfect fit."

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3 Things we saw as Eagles get win, 4 TD in Foles' return

Nick Foles made an impressive but not overwhelming debut in second stint as Eagles quarterback.

EVAN MACY
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The Eagles blocked an extra point, a field goal and a punt while closing a 13-point gap over the Giants to clinch a first round bye Sunday, in a 34-29 win at Metlife Field.

The game looked a lot different than most would expect, as Nick Foles led the Eagles over a feisty New York squad that busted open several Philly weaknesses — like a soft secondary, bad tackling and a lackluster run game.

Clearly not at their best, the Birds defense was able to hunker down against its own end zone to preserve the win in front of an unexpectedly friendly crowd in North Jersey

Even still, the Birds inproved to 12-2 and are heading home with two chances to clinch the No. 1 overall seed in the playoffs. Here's what we saw in Week 15:

1 Mills Spills

Vinny Curry picked the perfect time to collect his first sack of the season, pulling down Manning in the red zone on third down but a costly Jalen Mills holding call negated the heroics and led to an Orleans Darkwa touchdown sprint. The Eagles' second-year cornerback would prove to be a big part of the Eagles early struggles.

In addition to penalties the defense played uninspired football early allowing New York to convert its first five third down attempts and giving receivers cushion to catch balls all across the field. Tavarres King was wide open for a touchdown pass on the second drive of the game for the Giants, with Mills once again looking silly against a replacement-level receiver from New York. A drive later Sterling Shepard, crossing the middle of the field, took a slant 67-yards for a touchdown and a big 20-7 New York lead.

Mills committed a holding call in the second quarter too — prompting Eagles fans to start asking when rookie Sidney Jones might be ready to hit the field.

434

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5

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2 Still Elite?

Alshon Jeffery seemed not to care who was calling the shots under center, as a tight rope walk in the back of the end zone helped him collect Foles' first touchdown of the new era.

In a key fourth and one in the second, the Eagles failed for the first time in 13 tries to convert in that situation, turning the ball over to the Giants at midfield. With things seeming desperate, Ronald Darby put the entire hame on his shoulders and after intercepting Manning, a bevy of spin moves and jukes helped him take a 37-yard return through traffic to New York's 20-yardline. Foles did the rest, finding big target Zach Ertz (his eighth TD) to get Philly back in the game.

Another big play shocked the Giants, as Kamu Grugier-Hill blocked the Giants punt on their possession, collected by Corey Clement to set up another short field. The tight end party continued as Trey Burton caught his third touchdown pass in two weeks to get the Eagles back on top.

The run game was hit or miss Sunday, but a big 22-yard run by Jay Ajayi on a draw, followed by a 32-yard screen pass to the same player helped set up a touchdown to put the team ahead 31-23. In all, Philly rushed for 108 yards.

3 Full Foles

Filling in for Carson Wentz, Foles showed an ability to run the run-pass option and to run the Eagles offense efficiently, completing 24-of-38 passes. He was comfortable in the red zone, as signified by his three first half touchdowns and a fourth — a 10-yard toss to Nelson Agholor in the third.

Circumstances held Foles to just 234 yards through the air, as a handful of short fields limited the real estate needed to score. He also — of course — led Philly on several drives to come back from down by as many as 13 points.

Leading by just two after a 57-yard touchdown pass to Tavarres King got New York back inside a field goal of Philly, but a blocked kick gave Foles a chance to add some padding to a slim two-point fourth quarter advantage. A chip shot field goal gave the Giants a chance to come back and they trekked all the way to the 6-yardline before the Eagles defense denied Manning's comeback effort.

Nick Foles played opportunistic football, collecting four touchdown passes and no interceptions Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

Eagles hang on and clinch a first round playoff bye over lowly Giants

In a battle of east coast rivals, the Eagles prevailed — barely — in Week 15.

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Jay Ajayi had 12 carries for 49 yards and two catches for 40 yards Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

Forget the Eagles and Giants' win-loss records. A classic NFC East battle broke out in East Rutherford Sunday, as the now 12-2 Eagles had their way with the now 2-12 Giants, 34-29, in Week 15.

Nick Foles — starting the rest of the season for the injured Carson Wentz — threw four touchdown passes while Eli Manning collected an eye-popping 427 yards in the air (with 139 of them to Sterling Shepard) in a duel of potent offenses.

Clinging to a two-point lead, the Eagles failed to find the end zone in the red zone late in the fourth, settling for a field goal and a 34-29 lead with 3:55 to go.

With a chance to lead the Giants down the field, Manning was able to draw two penalties passing the ball and getting New York to the 50 yard line quickly. Three completions put the Giants inside the 10 inside the one minute mark. In a bizarre play-call, the Giants ran the ball on third down and failed to find the end zone. Paired with a false start penalty, the Giants had a make-or-break fourth and goal from the 11-yardline. Manning's pass went through the end zone. Philly clinched the win when, after a three-and-out, Manning's last-ditch effort with eight second to go didn't find the end zone.

Right out of the locker room, New York marched down the field as Orleans Darkwa found paydirt after a third down holding call gave the Giants new life. A blocked extra point softened the celebration just a little bit.

On the ensuing Eagles drive Foles connected with Alshon Jeffery in the back of the end zone to hop to a 7-6 lead.

A counter punch came as the Giants took advantage of some soft play in the Eagles' secondary. Manning led another march downfield as a wide open Tavarres King caught a touchdown pass to put the G-men up 13-7.

The first team to blink was Philly, which after recovering a Olivier Vernon forced strip sack, failed to convert on third and long one play later and was forced to punt. The Giants made them pay, finding Sterling Shepard on a 67-yard slant to up their lead.

Manning finally made a mistake as Ronald Darby picked him off late in the second quarter. Plays later, Foles hit Ertz over the middle to chip away at the lead, 20-14. New York's special teams made the next mistake as Philadelphia was able to block a Giants punt and take a 21-20 lead after a Foles-to-Trey Burton connection wide open in the end zone. A furious push for a field goal did get the Giants back on top 23-21 before the 30-minute horn.

A chip shot field goal on the heals of a 64-yard drive put the Eagles back ahead 24-23 to open the second and after a short Giants punt Foles hooked up for touchdown No. 4 with Zach Ertz to get the NFC East champs ahead by eight, 31-23.

The Eagles committed an unforced error by getting penalized on a potential Giants punt — which gave Manning the opening to find King on a 57-yard touchdown sprint. A failed two-point try had Philly's lead at 31-29 as the third wound down.

With an opportunity to take a lead in the fourth, Malcolm Jenkins found a way to get his body in front of a Aldrick Rosas field goal try. The block preserved a two-point lead.

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Why Embiid's lovable antics are starting to hurt Sixers on court

Joel "tro-ell" Embiid keeps trolling opponents — and it's worked against him.

ANDY JASNER
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It's time for Joel Embiid to tone down the extracurricular antics.

No more waving goodbye to players who foul out. No more social media craziness.

Of course, this won't happen. Embiid seems to revel in the litany of ancillary antics associated with the game.

Is it fun? Yes.

It it necessary? No.

All it's doing right now is amping up the opponent.

On Friday night, the Sixers lost an epic triple-overtime thriller to the Oklahoma City Thunder. When Steven Adams fouled out, Embiid waved goodbye to Adams. Russell Westbrook took exception and you could tell.

Westbrook threw down a vicious dunk and eventually dished off the game-winning assist to Andre Roberson at the end of the third overtime.

"I was telling him to 'go home,'" Westbrook said, referring to what he did when the final buzzer sounded. "He was talking mess when Steve-O (Adams) fouled out, waving to the crowd, which is unnecessary."

That it was.

Embiid scored 34 points and added eight rebounds and six assists. He has scored at least 20 points in seven consecutive games, dating to Nov. 27. It's the second-longest streak of his career.

Embiid has scored in double figures in every game he has played in this season and in 38 straight overall. He's one of 13 players in the league to score 10-plus points in 23 or more straight games this season.

The talent is unquestionable.

After playing a career-high 48 minutes and appearing to wince when he held his lower back, the next week and beyond will be interesting to see. How will his body respond with a sketchy injury history?

Embiid needs to channel his passion.

"He told me to go home," Embiid said when asked about Westbrook. "I mean this is my home, so I guess it's time for him to go home. They won the game. I give them a lot of credit. He did a lot of things, but the dude shot 10 of 33. I wish I would have shot 33 times. I guess we would have had a better chance of actually winning the game. But you know, he told me to go home. This is my home and I ain't going nowhere."

Westbrook posted a triple-double, the 10th of the season and 89th of his career. Even with his shot a bit off, he managed 17 rebounds and 15 assists and controlled the game through the overtimes.

Check through NBA history and look up players like Larry Bird and Oscar Robertson. They would post poor shooting nights yet have complete control of the game with all-around stellar performances.

Embiid played a terrific game. He's an All-Star right now with potential that is so untapped it's scary.

If he can somehow figure out how to channel his energy, he can be even more dangerous.

The Sixers on the court again Monday in Chicago (7 p.m. on NBCSP). GETTY IMAGES

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The University of Pennsylvania is seeking smokers, between the ages of 18 and 65, to test the effects of an investigational medication on smoking behavior. During this study, you will have two practice quit attempts.

Participants will be compensated for time and travel.

Please call 215-746-8560
or go to **phillyquitnow.com** to see if you are eligible for this research study.

ENTERTAINMENT

CAREER TRAINING

OIC
PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA
Opportunities Industrialization Center
IS HAVING AN
OPEN HOUSE

This is your opportunity to learn about OIC,
The **Tuition FREE** Hospitality Training Institute with Job Assistance

Housekeeping/Environmental Services & Front Office Operations

DATE: Wednesday, December 20th, 2017
TIME: 12:00pm - 3:00pm
CONTACT: Mrs. Council-Grant, Admissions Specialist
215.236.7700 (ext. 325)
LOCATION: 1231 N. Broad Street, 4th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19122

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO:
Meet and speak with staff & current students
Tour the training facility
Sign-up for upcoming classes
(Please bring Diploma or GED w/a Valid State ID)

philaoic.org
OPENING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

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Nick's Real Estate
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HOMEVESTORS
AMERICA'S #1 HOME BUYER
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Commercial Area on the First Fl. $3500mo
10 parking spots. For day parking only.
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Contact: **267-886-9684** - FRGRealty@gmail.com

ENTERTAINMENT

ITEMS WANTED

NEED CASH?
$ BUYING Diabetic Test Strips, Nicotine Patches/Gum $
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ENTERTAINMENT

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$100--$5000
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FREE TOWING
SAME DAY PICKUP
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or 215-730-0900

$$$ UP TO $1100.00 $$$
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w/ or w/out title
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215-669-1000

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- Benefit Rate and Non-Benefit Rate
- Training Available to New Drivers
- Classes Forming Now
- $500 SIGN-ON BONUS FOR DRIVERS WITH CURRENT CREDENTIALS

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Philadelphia, PA 19137
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Must be 23 yrs. of age or older and possess a valid PA driver's license for 3 yrs.
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Paid Training and Benefits.

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Edens Transit
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215-992-8000

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Email: info@blackcarXchange.com

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minimum CDA. Send resume to:
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General Help Wanted

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INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIANS

Qualifications
- Licensed electrician preferred
- Certified Controls Technician by the Instrument Society of America (ISA) preferred
- Trained or certified in the following craft specialties
  - Service and maintain high-voltage switchgear and motor control centers
  - Lock-out/unlock equipment electrically for operations and maintenance
  - Work on/replace equipment 480 volts and above
  - All work on live electricity
  - Change out lights in hazardous areas
  - Service and repair DCS equipment
  - Calibrate and troubleshoot instrument loops
  - Service analyzers and recording instruments

This Position Requires:
- High School Diploma or Equivalent
- Current, valid Driver's License
- Ability to acquire or possess CDL license to operate some company vehicles
- Must pass computer, written, hands-on demonstrated skill test

Residency Requirement: All employees of the Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW) must live in the City of Philadelphia for the duration of their employment. If a candidate does not live in the City of Philadelphia at the time of hire, he/she must move into the city within twelve (12) months of his/her hire date.

We offer a strong benefit package that includes free basic health and dental insurance. PGW is proud to be an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer, M/F/D/VAAP/EEO.

Apply at www.pgworks.com

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Ticket to Work Employment Program Free for SSI and SSDI Beneficiaries
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If you receive SSI/SSDI, are between ages 18-64 and are looking for work America Works can help you...

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www.americaworks.com/tickettowork

Barber National Institute

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Job Coach – Part Time, Day Service Aide – Part Time,
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Please send resumes to **Barber National Institute**
3300 Henry Ave, Suite 900, Philadelphia, PA 19129
Or apply at: **www.barberinstitute.org** EOE

Barber National Institute

OPEN INTERVIEW DAY

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Accepting applications to work with adults with intellectual disabilities in residential group homes. Aides are responsible for promoting independence, implementing goal plans and assisting with daily living skills. Positions offer flexible schedules, potential for full time with excellent benefits package and lifelong rewards.
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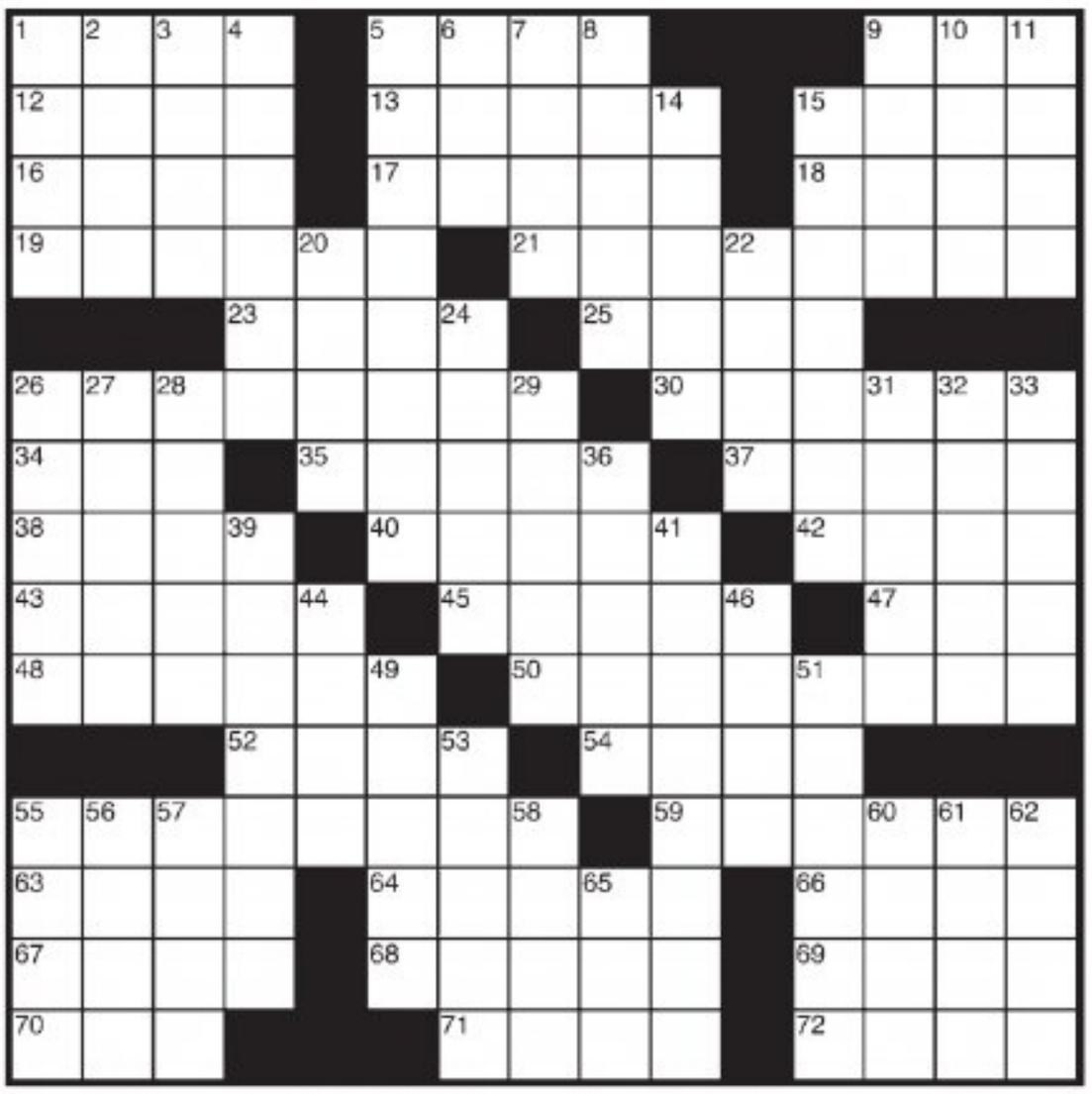
metro.us/crossword

Across

1 Wipe the woodwork
5 Shoppers' haven
9 Ramble around
12 Ersatz butter
13 Accepted principle
15 Isinglass
16 Tiny insect
17 Eager and willing
18 Found a roost
19 Uninhibited
21 Outlaw
23 Underwater shockers
25 Overindulge
26 Nonassertive ones
30 Garage for planes
34 Outfit
35 Peanuts or popcorn
37 Elegant wrap
38 Reformers' targets
40 Artemis, to Livy
42 In the distance
43 Running mates
45 Big Dipper neighbor
47 Ostrich cousin
48 Quick trip
50 1996 film role for Madonna (2 wds.)
52 Stray dogs
54 Wax-coated cheese
55 Soldier's garb
59 Pass
63 Well-known auth.
64 Expression
66 Strait of Hormuz country
67 Flash Gordon villain
68 The One-L Lama
69 Strauss of jeans
70 Wallach or Lilly
71 Director -- Ephron
72 Lost no time

Down

1 Venetian magistrate
2 Arm bone
3 Wither
4 Go unsteadily
5 Atlantic Coast state
6 Wood chopper
7 Truth stretcher
8 Mineral deposits
9 Arizona river
10 Battery fluid
11 Go steady
14 Talking bird
15 Vivid color
20 Finishes a skirt
22 Sweater letters
24 Placid
26 Ambition
27 Persian Gulf sight
28 Girl-watcher
29 False alarm
31 Office helper
32 Bowie's last stand
33 Second airing
36 Rascal
39 Typesetter's concern
41 Professor's milieu
44 Tucked in
46 Silica mineral
49 Celtic priest
51 Sends via modem
53 Type of car
55 Reputation
56 Indigo plant
57 Nobelist -- Morrison
58 Fodder storage
60 Get ready
61 Keep for later
62 Writer -- Bagnold
65 Galley mover



metro.us/sudoku

easy

5	6				4			
1							8	
	9		1		8		7	
	3				7	2		
2	5	4				8	3	7
		9	5				1	
	7		3		5		9	
	4							3
			2				4	8

hard

	1						8	4
		7	4					
4		3			6			5
8				6			1	
1		9	8		3	5		6
	5			1				8
3			9			6		7
					4	2		
5	9						4	

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Show discipline and take care of unfinished business before you engage in social activities or make personal changes or plans for upcoming festivities.

Taurus Don't take shortcuts. Gather information before you make a purchase. A change in the way you handle your health, legal and money matters will be required.

Gemini An honest assessment of your finances will help you restructure your spending habits. The changes you make will help you head into the upcoming year with optimism.

Cancer Let your heart guide you when it comes to dealing with loved ones. Pleasing others doesn't have to be costly. Offering help will encourage the same in return.

Leo Plan to make changes that will improve your life, status and direction. Check out what others are doing and learn from the information and research offered.

Virgo Look beyond what's unfolding in front of you. Consider the possibilities and the consequences of making the wrong choice. Trust in your judgment.

Libra Keep moving until you get everything done. You will feel much better if you have made the changes that will give you the freedom to enjoy life, family and friends.

Scorpio A change to the way you earn your living or how you deal with investments or joint ventures will help reconfigure the way you move forward next year.

Sagittarius Dress up your residence and make alterations that will add to your comfort and entertainment. Love and romance are on the rise and will improve your personal life.

Capricorn Being a good listener will give you an advantage. The less anyone knows about you, the easier it will be to execute your plans without interference.

Aquarius Share your opinions and solutions, but not personal information or anything that may affect your reputation or status. Help less fortunate people.

Pisces Trust your instincts, not what someone else tells you. Persuasive tactics will be used if you show vulnerability or inconsistency. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

S	W	A	P	■	K	E	N	Y	A	■	M	A	S	T
P	A	L	I	■	R	E	A	I	R	■	U	S	E	R
E	D	E	N	■	A	R	M	E	D	■	N	I	C	E
W	I	C	K	E	T	■	E	L	O	N	G	A	T	E
■	■	■	I	R	I	S	■	D	R	A	B	■	■	■
A	N	G	E	L	O	U	■	■	■	S	E	A	M	S
R	O	E	■	E	N	D	E	D	■	H	A	B	I	T
R	I	N	D	■	S	A	G	A	N	■	N	A	T	O
O	S	I	E	R	■	N	O	V	A	K	■	S	T	U
W	E	E	P	Y	■	■	■	E	V	E	R	E	S	T
■	■	■	E	E	K	S	■	S	I	R	E	■	■	■
I	R	O	N	S	O	U	T	■	G	R	E	T	E	L
M	O	O	D	■	O	M	A	H	A	■	K	A	Y	O
A	D	Z	E	■	K	A	P	U	T	■	E	X	E	C
N	E	E	D	■	S	C	E	N	E	■	D	I	S	K

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- ☐ **ADHD Pediatric**
- ☐ **Adolescent Depression**
- ☐ **Alzheimer's Disease**
- ☐ **Bipolar Disorder**
- ☐ **Crohn's Disease**
- ☐ **Chronic Pain**
- ☐ **Depression**
- ☐ **Diabetes Type II**
- ☐ **Diabetic Neuropathy**
- ☐ **Eczema/Psoriasis**
- ☐ **Healthy Adults**
- ☐ **Kidney Disease**
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- ☐ **Neurogenic Orthostatic Hypotension**
- ☐ **Osteoarthritis**
- ☐ **Schizoaffective**
- ☐ **Schizophrenia**

- Insurance is ***not required*** to participate in our studies, and all study-related care and study medications are provided at no charge.
- Compensation for ***time*** and ***travel*** expenses of between $300 and $5,600 may be available depending on the study.
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